

*CLAIM AMENDMENTS*

Please rewrite claims 1, 4 and 8;  
Cancel claim 9; and  
Add new claim 10.

1. (Currently Amended) A coupling for connecting flexible hoses together comprising:

a one piece male fitting including integral shank and quick disconnect coupling portions, the shank portion of the male fitting being insertable at least partially in one of the flexible hoses for securing the male fitting to the hose, the coupling portion of the male fitting including a stem; and

a one piece female fitting including integral shank and quick disconnect coupling portions, the shank portion of the female fitting being insertable at least partially in one of the flexible hoses for securing the female fitting to the hose, the coupling portion of the female fitting being configured to ~~receive and~~ non-threadably ~~engage~~ receive the stem of the male fitting, ~~and including a collar movable mounted in the female fitting for movement between~~ locked and unlocked positions such that in the locked position the male and female fittings are securely engaged and in the unlocked position the stem portion of male fitting can be selectively decoupled from the coupling portion of the female fitting, a spring for biasing said collar to said locked position, and said collar being manually moveable against a biasing force of said spring to said unlocked position.

2. (Previously Presented) The coupling according to claim 1 wherein the shank portions of the male and female fittings are ribbed.

3. (Previously Presented) The coupling according to claim 1 further including a pair of annular ferrules each being compressible over a section of flexible hose within which the shank portion of a respective one of the male and female fittings has been inserted.

4. (Currently Amended) The coupling according to claim 1 ~~wherein the female fitting includes~~ including at least one locking element mounted on said female fitting, and said, the at least one locking element being movable between engaged and disengaged positions in response to movement of the collar between the locked and unlocked positions respectively.

5. (Previously Presented) The coupling according to claim 4 wherein the at least one locking element engages a groove in the stem of the male fitting.

6. (Previously Presented) The coupling according to claim 5 wherein the at least one locking element is one of a plurality of locking elements comprising locking balls.

7. (Previously Presented) The coupling according to claim 6 wherein the locking balls are retained on the coupling portion of the female fitting in both the engaged and disengaged positions by the collar.

8. (Currently Amended) The coupling according to claim 5 wherein movement of the stem of the male fitting relative to the female fitting causes the at least one locking element to move from the engaged to the disengaged position when the collar is in the unlocked position.

9. (Canceled)

10. (New) The coupling according to claim 8 in which said male fitting has a tapered outer annular surface adjacent an end thereof for engaging and urging the at least one locking element radially outwardly relative to said quick disconnect coupling portion of said female fitting at an incident to positioning of said male fitting into the quick disconnect coupling portion of said female fitting, and said quick disconnect coupling portion of said male fitting being formed with an outwardly opening annular groove having tapered sides at opposite axial ends thereof for receiving said at least one locking element when said collar is in said locked position.